Knitting Abbreviations and Terms (US + UK)

Handy Little Me
In this ebook, you will see a list of knitting abbreviations and terms for both the US and UK terminology. Some of the abbreviations will be the same or very similar, but there are also some differences.

Following is a list of knitting abbreviations commonly used by yarn industry designers and publishers.

In addition, designers and publishers may use special abbreviations in a pattern, which you might not find on this list. It is a good idea to google search anything you don’t see on the lists here for help.

Generally, a definition of special abbreviations is given at the beginning of a book or pattern.
• alt - alternate
• approx- approximately
• beg - beginning
• bet- between
• BO - bind off
• byo - backward yarn over
• CC - contrasting color
• cn - cable needle
• CO - cast on
• cont - continue
• dec - decrease
• dpn - double-pointed needles
• foll - follow
• inc - increase
• k - knit
• k1B - knit stitch in row below
• kfb - knit 1 into front and back of a stitch; single knit increase
• ksp - knit 1 stitch, slip this stitch from right needle to left needle, pass second stitch on left needle over first stitch and off left needle; return stitch to right needle; single right-leaning decrease
• k2tog - knit 2 stitches together; single right-leaning decrease
• kwise - knitwise
• LH - left hand
• lp - loop
• m - marker
• M1 or M1K - make one stitch knitwise; single knit increase
• M1R - make one right; single right-leaning knit increase
• M1L - make one left; single left-leaning knit increase
• M1p - make one purlwise; single purl increase
• M1rp - make one right purlwise; single right-leaning purl increase
• M1lp - make one left purlwise; single left-leaning purl increase
• MC - main color
• p - purl
• pat or patt - pattern
• pfB - purl 1 into front and back of a stitch; single purl increase
• pm - place marker
• p2tog - purl 2 stitches together; single decrease
• prev - previous
• psso - pass slipped stitch over
• p2sso - pass 2 slipped stitches over
• pwise - purlwise
• rem - remaining
• rep - repeat
• rev St st - reverse stockinette stitch
• RH - right hand
• rnd - round
• RS - right side
• SKP - slip 1 knitwise, knit 1, pass slip stitch over knit stitch; single left-leaning decrease
• SK2P - slip 1 knitwise, knit 2 together, pass slip stitch over knit 2 together; double left-leaning decrease
• sl - slip
• sl1k - slip 1 knitwise
• sl1p - slip 1 purlwise
• sl st - slip stitch
• sm - slip markers
• sk - slip 2 stitches knitwise, knit these 2 stitches together through back loops; single left-leaning decrease
• ssp - slip 2 stitches knitwise, return these 2 stitches to left needle and purl them together through back loops; single left-leaning decrease
• sssk - slip 3 stitches knitwise, knit these 3 stitches together through back loops; double left-leaning decrease
• sssp - slip 3 stitches knitwise, return these 3 stitches to left needle and purl these 3 stitches together through back loops; double left-leaning decrease
• S2KP2 - slip 2 stitches as if to knit 2 together, knit 1, pass 2 slipped stitches over knit stitch; centered double decrease
• SSPP2 - slip 2 stitches knitwise, return these 2 stitches to left needle and then slip them as if to p2tog through back loops, purl 1, pass 2 slipped stitches over purl stitch; centered double decrease
• st - stitch
• St st - stockinette stitch
• tbl - through back loop
• tfl - through front loop
• tog - together
• WS - wrong side
• w&t - wrap and turn
• wyib - with yarn in back
• wyif - with yarn in front
• yb - yarn back
• yfwd or yf - yarn forward
• yo - yarn over
• yon - yarn over needle
• yrn - yarn round needle
Terms

- * - repeat the instructions following the single asterisk as directed
- ** - repeat instructions between asterisks as many times as directed or repeat at specified locations
- {} - work instructions within brackets as many times as directed
- [] - work instructions within brackets as many times as directed
- () - work instructions within parentheses as many times as directed or work a group of stitches all in the same stitch or space

Measurements

- " or in - inch
- cm - centimeter
- g - gram
- m - meter
- mm - millimeter
- oz - ounce
- yd - yard

Abbreviation + Terms Differences Between The US, Canada and The UK

**U.S.**
- bind off
- gauge
- slip stitch (sl st)

**Canada**
- cast off
- tension
- slip stitch (ss)

**UK**
- cast off
- tension
- slip stitch (sl1k)
• alt - alternate
• approx - approximately
• beg - begin, beginning
• bet - between
• bk2tog - brioche knit 2 together; knit next knit stitch together with its paired yarnover
• bk3tog - right-slanting brioche decrease
• bp2tog - brioche purl 2 together; purl next purl stitch together with its paired yarnover
• bsk2p - left-slanting brioche decrease
• cable - a decorative stitch that looks like a twisted rope or braid
• CC - contrast color
• cco - cable cast on
• cm - centimeter(s)
• cn - cable needle
• CO - cast on
• cont - continue
• dec - decrease, decreases, decreasing
• dpn - double pointed needles
• gst - Garter stitch
• fl - front loop(s)
• foll - follow, follows, following
• g - gram(s)
• inc - increase, increases, increasing
• incl - inclusive
• k or K - knit
• klb - knit 1 below
• k1fb - knit one front and back; a single-stitch increase
• k2tog - knit 2 stitches together; a right-slanting, single-stitch decrease
• kitchener stitch - method of grafting lives stitches together
• kwise - knitwise
• LH - left hand
• lp(s) - loop(s)
• m - meter(s)
• M1 - make 1 stitch
• mlL - make 1 left; left-slanting, single-stitch increase
• mlR - make 1 right; right-slanting, single-stitch increase
• M1p-st - make 1 purl stitch
• MC - main color
• mm - millimeter(s)
• M.St - Moss stitch
- oz - ounce(s)
- p or P - purl
- ptbl - purl through the back loop
- plb - purl 1 below
- p2tog - purl 2 stitches together; a single-stitch decrease
- p2togtbl - purl 2 stitches together through the back loops; also known as ssp; an one-stitch decrease
- pat(s) or patt - pattern(s)
- pm - place marker
- pop - popcorn
- prev - previous
- psso - pass slipped stitch over
- pwise - purlwise
- rem - remain, remaining
- rep(s) - repeat(s)
- rev St st - reverse stockinette stitch
- RH - right hand
- rnd(s) - round(s)
- Row - row
- RS - right side
- s2kp - slip 2 together knitwise, k1, pass slipped stitches over (psso); a centered two-stitch decrease
- sk - skip
- sk2p - slip 1, knit 2 together, pass slip stitch over (psso), then knit 2 together; a two-stitch decrease
- skp - slip, knit, pass stitch over; a single-stitch decrease
- skpo - slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over
- sl - slip
- sl st - slip stitch(es)
- slk - slip 1 knitwise
- slp - slip 1 purlwise
- sl1, k1, ppso - slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over; a single-stitch decrease
- ssk - slip, slip, knit these 2 stitches together; a left-slanting, single-stitch decrease
- ssp - slip, slip, purl; one-stitch decrease; also known as p2tog tbl
- sssk - slip, slip, slip, knit these 3 stitches together; a left-slanting, two-stitch decrease
- st(s) - stitch(es)
- St st - stockinette stitch, stocking stitch
• tbl - through back loop
• tog - together
• WS - wrong side
• wyib - with yarn in back
• wyif - with yarn in front
• yd(s) - yard(s)
• yf - yarn at front
• yb - yarn at back
• yrn - yarn round needle
• yfwd - yarn forward
• yo - yarn over
• yon - yarn over needle
Thank you so much for your support - I really appreciate your download of this mini ebook, for visiting my website, joining the Facebook group and following me along on my creative journey. It means so much that my patterns make you want to pick up your needles and make something!

Knitting is an amazing way to spend your free time, bringing lots of fun times into your life. I don't know where I would be if I didn't have my blog and my projects!

So go and choose your first pattern, think of the colours you will use, the yarn choices you have to make and get excited to make something for yourself or to gift to others!

I love the way knitting brings people together.